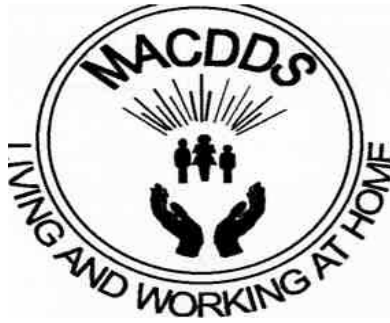


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AUG 16 2004

August 11, 2004

Dear Melodie:

Accompanying this letter is the MACDDS proposal to become a SPOE for the First Steps program. The components are consistent with the requirements currently in place for SPOE's as well as the last RFP. We believe it will address the concerns expressed by MACDDS members and enhance service delivery to the children of Missouri.

Because of the impact the MACDDS SPOE will have on the First Steps system, copies are being sent to DMH and the DESE Commissioner. We welcome discussion of the proposal by all parties.

Getting services to our youngest consumers is an urgent issue. MACDDS would like to form a partnership with DESE to better serve this most vulnerable population.

We would like acceptance of this proposal within thirty days. We and other MACDDS members will be glad to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss implementation.

Sincerely,

Mary Sullivan-Thomas  
President, MACDDS

Ronald E. Kruse, Ed.D.  
Chairperson, First Steps Workgroup